

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber and HD TV owner with STB who would like to add my conditional (requirement to carry all local analog broadcast at a reasonable compression ration, DTV broadcast at a reasonable compression ration, DTV High definition broadcast at full bandwidth, at least 12 national HDTV station, and the clearance to deliver Network HDTV feed to any household that can not reasonably and reliably receive HDTV content from the local affiliate station or the affiliate has not chosen to broadcast the High Definition content) voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime i